

[CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 1.]

some two inches, so as to prevent the fleece tearing along the back, which it is likely to do if the back bone is not slightly passed before turning.

The runs from the flank up over the shoulder will quickly be reached, when, if the sheep be properly handled, the shearer will find the left hind leg has assumed its best position for the shears and with skillful aid of left hand and fore arm, the shears may run from hock joint up along below the flank and upward across the side to a line a little past the back bone, just below or back of shoulder blade.

It is a delight to see the fleece roll off from the shears of a speedy shearer at this part of the work, and he soon has the fleece off to a line from the crotch up past the hip joint, when, by letting the sheep incline down a little and toward him, a few short lines more releases the wool from the left hip, rump and past rear end of back bone.

To have full use of right hand in turning, lay the shears down: (a skilled operator never needs to lay down his shears) straighten the sheep up a little, drop the left foot from the bench, still retaining the head under the left arm, slip the left hand down and grasp lower part of both hind legs firmly; with aid of right hand passed below the shoulder and around across the breast, gently raise the sheep up almost from the bench, by a quick move turn, or rather roll it over and around, so the back will be toward the right hand and legs toward the left; the sheep then resting on its left shorn hip, instead of right one; at the same time replacing the left foot on the bench and pressing the head and neck down over the left leg, still holding the hind legs firmly until the sheep discovers it is held and ceases to resist, should it incline to do so.

The writer has mostly turned them so quickly, quietly and easily, that they often scarcely realized the movement of being turned. What has been left on the right side of the neck is now presented and easily falls away from the shears; the left hand being free to draw up the skin of the right shoulder, that part is smoothly presented for the longest run of shears from near the back bone to the extreme points of the fore leg and shorn line of the belly; be careful to set the shears level on the skin, as they start near the back and keep them so at all times so as to make smooth shearing and avoid cutting the skin.

The flank being reached, by dextrous use of the left hand, the shears may be run from the hip bone clear down to the hock and the wool is quickly shorn from the right hind quarter, when the sheep is ready to drop from the bench, if all the trimming has been neatly done in its proper time and in the operation. If not it should be carefully done before the sheep is released.

If the shearer's left leg tires he may at times drop his left foot and raise his right up on the bench, lean the sheep over on his right leg and clip off the right side from the shoulder down quite as conveniently as to have the left foot up and thus shifting, he will rest. There is much of the time the operator will stand almost straight at this bench shearing, which is a great relief to his back and his body otherwise.

The fleece with belly and "tidbits" should be cleanly removed to the lapping table or at least safely out of the way of sheep's feet before another one is lifted on the bench.

SAMUEL ARCHER.

Marion, N. C.

Use no wood ashes among the droppings, as the effect is to release the ammonia in them, thus wasting it, as well as making an unhealthy atmosphere for the fowls to breathe. —Marian Meade.

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## BECAUSE IT DOES THE WORK.

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E. F. STODDARD.

## Horticulture.

## THE MID-SUMMER APPLE CROP.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

Not a little of the profit of the apple crop depends upon proper mid-summer treatment of the trees. More and more are we beginning to realize that it is the fine, fancy fruits which pay. The large, sound, handsome apples always bring their price, and in seasons of depression they are the only ones that have any profitable market. They are the only apples which foreigners will take, and the only ones that will stand transportation across the ocean. Such apples must be perfectly grown, and they must reach maturity without defect or blemish. A tree with a few bushels of such fancy apples yields more profit than another with twice as many defective ones. It is the quality and not the quantity of the yield that decides the profits.

A good many apples are spoiled through summer carelessness in the orchard. Just now the trees are in a condition which need our particular attention. One should go through the orchard and make careful note of the condition of each tree. A good deal depends upon the past performances of each tree. Some have a record of producing very good apples in spite of the heavy crop. Such trees consequently need less thinning out than others. There should be made an effort to dislodge so far as possible all defective and undersized fruits. Relieved of these the tree will be able to make the remaining apples grow larger and fairer. But in leaving too many fruits on a tree with a good record the danger of breaking down the limbs is invited. This must be carefully considered. Even though we supply props later damage is actually done to the tree by straining it. As a rule a tree should not be asked to carry more apples than its limbs can actually support without props. These latter can then be put up to keep the tree from straining when storms and winds are beating through the orchard.

Proper thinning out of fruits, especially the apples, is one of the most delicate of questions, for one must learn how to do it from experience. One does no damage to the crop by overthinning, except as he limits the size of the crop. The trees do not suffer therefrom as they may from overpruning. So in this respect one can decide for himself just how large a crop he wants. Allowances must, of course, be made for the havoc created by storms. These will thin out the fruit later in spite of all precautions. It may then be necessary to leave a few more apples on the trees than you expect to harvest. Another consideration is that some of the apples will develop specks or rotten centres, later these will have to be thinned out. The thinning out process consequently should be carried on by degrees, always looking out for the small, undersized and knotty fruits. These should always be pulled or knocked off.

S. W. CHAMBERS.

## STRAWBERRY CULTURE—MID-SUMMER.

Correspondence of The Progressive Farmer.

There are two vital points in strawberry culture at this season—the prompt destruction of weeds and grass and the conservation of moisture. Fortunately both of these can be achieved by one and the same means—two birds killed by one stone, as it were.

Frequent and shallow culture are the means. This we accomplish by means of a small, five tooth horse cultivator and light hand hoes. The cultivator is run down the middle once or twice as may be necessary to stir the soil well within a reasonable distance of the plants. Up to about July 15 we plow within six inches of the plants, using a small tooth one inch wide on the side of the cultivator next to the plant. This small tooth cuts over an inch and a half inch deep and throws no dirt on plants. Later as the plants get older and larger, we drop back a little farther with the plow.

The strip around the plants that the cultivator does not reach we stir with hand hoes, cultivating very shallow just around the plants and a little deeper further off.

We make it a rule to cultivate this way every two weeks. Timely done such cultivation is rapid and inexpensive. It is when cultivation is delayed and grass and weeds intrude themselves that arduous and

expensive work is necessary. In my callow days I have had crab grass get such dominion over a field of matted rows that it cost nearly as much to subdue as it should have cost to hoe that field all summer. The time to kill grass is before it comes. Crab grass, the great foe of the Southern strawberry grower, has the lives of a cat, once that it bunches well. There is a saying among North Carolina farmers that you can't kill crab grass in August. This grass bunches if allowed to get its growth, which it does in August, till it resembles a crab, hence the reason.

In August the sun power weakens, heavy dews increase and showers are heavier, or at least, more lasting in their effects than in earlier summer. Under these conditions crab grass is almost invulnerable to any force that pining agriculture can bring against it.

I have in my time witnessed some exceedingly humorous battles of behind-hand growers against this invincible foe. First would come one or two desperate attempts to smother by means of turning-plow the huge bunches as they waxed and grew among the berries. This failing, an onslaught with hoes would follow, in which the bunches were dug, chopped, belabored and shaken without mercy but without avail. Harrowing was essayed but simply to pile the grass, draw earth on it and give it a fresh start. Then comes another charge and belaboring with the hoes. Thus varying his modes of onslaught the helpless grower kept up the battle till driven to surrender and leave the plants to their fate. Now and then I have known a plucky, irate fellow to finally lug grass bodily from the field and leave it to grow in the road and along the fence corners. One-tenth of the labor done on time would have killed the grass before it came.

And, as before intimated, all this cultivation is worth all its costs as a conservator of moisture. In fact, weeds and grass, in that they force us to give the culture, are really blessings in disguise.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Vance Co., N. C.

## Farm Miscellany.

## BETTER POULTRY FOR THE FARM.

While attending the fairs we could not help noticing the glaring ignorance on the part of many visitors in regard to what it takes to constitute a pure bred fowl. (There certainly is room for much improvement in this direction. You may converse with any of them upon the different breeds of cattle, sheep or hogs, and they are perfectly familiar and can tell you their good qualities and their weak points. But when it comes to chickens as they call them, it is like going to a menagerie. They will walk up to a pen of Barred Rocks and be heard to exclaim: "Oh my, what fine Brahmas these are." Or in looking over the Leghorns they will say these are Games, "Yes, I know these are Games by their big combs." And they will approach the owner and say, "I want to get one of your premium roosters. How much do you ask for them?" When told they are worth \$3 to \$5 they are perfectly horrified and exclaim: "You must think I don't know anything to give such a price as that for a rooster. Why, I bought one of my neighbor last spring, as big as that one for fifty cents, and they were full blooded Plymouth Rocks, for they had yellow legs and bills and speckled all over white and brown, or black." I have taken chickens to the fair in the fall that were hatched the first of April that weighed eight pounds and were just picked up from the flock as they ran, and not fed a grain more than the balance of the flock, and the general expression of passers by was that those were last year's chickens. Many farmers and others are not used to seeing such fine thorough-bred fowls. They look on them as simply monstrosities, gotten up especially for the fairs. Of course there are many exceptions to this rule among farmers, but the rank and file are of this class. Let us strive therefore to have an awakening in this matter and see what we can do. We like other kinds of stock of the very best. Why not include poultry in the list? It is a practical matter and will bear close inspection for it takes but few figures to show that there is more profit in raising a flock of Plymouth Rocks or Brahmas that will weigh seven or eight pounds at six months than the

old kind of scrubs that weigh four pounds, to say nothing of the eggs and the satisfaction of seeing nice stock. Do not take my word for it, but go to work and prove it to be true.

If the farmers of this Southern country would get up a little business tact, and invest a little in good stock they would find that the income would be fourfold, especially if they got good enough stock so they could sell it for breeding purposes too. It will be a long time in this country before good stock will go a begging for purchasers. As proof of this you will find that a man who ever gets a start of fine stock will not be willing to go back to the scrub.

A man who stands back and waits for some one else to do the improving in any line of business will never be much of a success, and it is no less true in the line of stock raising and farming. If I am wrong in this matter I would like for some one to come forward and correct me. Take the matter of Belgian hares, if you will allow me the privilege of digressing. Only about five years ago people were laughed at because they imported these little animals at a high price, but how is it to-day? Men who did some of the laughing are spending hundreds of dollars in the business, and they are getting returns from the business too. They will for some time to come too. See if I am not right on this line too.—F. J. Marshall, College Park, Ga., in Southern Cultivator.

## KEEPING MILK COOL IN SUMMER.

The great problem of butter-making in the summer time is a way of keeping the milk cool. The only satisfactory way with the average farm convenience is by using cans that can be set in water. When there is any quantity of milk, it would pay to build a milk-house over or beside the well. If the amount of milk handled does not warrant so much expense, a large box to cover the milk tank containing the cans will answer the purpose. All it is necessary to do is to shade the cans from the rays of the sun. The tank must be large enough to contain all the cans and a sufficient amount of water besides to insure against its temperature being affected by putting in the warm milk. It should be deep enough to allow the water to reach well above the milk in the cans. By arranging pipes to carry off the surplus water from the tank into the watering troughs of the stock, all the water used can be pumped through the tank, thus changing it several times a day and keeping it cool. A long tank has some advantages over a round or square one. There is not so much danger of an upset. With slats nailed across just far enough apart to let the can set between them, there will be no trouble in this line. By having several escapes at different heights, the quantity of water in the tank can be regulated by means of plugs to close all but the one that allows the water to escape when it has reached the desired height. As each can is not liable to contain a like quantity of milk, it is a good idea to have several convenient weights handy to regulate the weights of the cans. A square tin box set in the water will make a good cooler for butter or meats.—Jim L. Irwin, in The Farmer.

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| SOUTHWARD                 |            | Daily No. 31 | Daily No. 27 |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lv New York, P. R. R.     | 12:55 p.m. | 12:10 a.m.   | 3:50 a.m.    |
| Lv Philadelphia, P. R. R. | 3:29 p.m.  | 3:50 a.m.    | 6:40 a.m.    |
| Lv Baltimore, P. R. R.    | 5:45 p.m.  | 6:40 a.m.    | 11:01 a.m.   |
| Lv Washington, P. R. R.   | 6:55 p.m.  | 11:01 a.m.   | 2:40 p.m.    |
| Lv Richmond, S. A. L. Ry. | 10:40 a.m. | 2:40 p.m.    | 3:27 p.m.    |
| Lv Petersburg             | 11:31 a.m. | 3:27 p.m.    | 5:55 p.m.    |
| Lv Norfolk                | 2:05 a.m.  | 5:55 p.m.    | 8:20 p.m.    |
| Lv Henderson              | 2:30 a.m.  | 6:23 p.m.    | 8:40 p.m.    |
| Lv Raleigh                | 3:45 a.m.  | 7:40 p.m.    | 9:30 p.m.    |
| Lv Southern Pines         | 5:15 a.m.  | 9:10 p.m.    | 10:40 p.m.   |
| Lv Hamlet                 | 6:30 a.m.  | 10:50 p.m.   | 1:05 a.m.    |
| Lv Columbia               | 8:40 a.m.  | 1:05 a.m.    | 4:32 a.m.    |
| Lv Savannah               | 12:10 p.m. | 4:32 a.m.    | 9:15 a.m.    |
| Lv Jacksonville           | 3:50 p.m.  | 9:15 a.m.    | 5:00 a.m.    |
| Lv Tampa                  | 5:00 a.m.  | 5:40 p.m.    |              |

| NORTHWARD                    |            | Daily No. 31 | Daily No. 27 |
|------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lv New York, N. Y. P. & N.   | 8:55 p.m.  | 11:26 p.m.   | 8:55 p.m.    |
| Lv Philadelphia, P. R. R.    | 10:23 a.m. | 8:55 p.m.    | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv New York, O. D. S. Co.    | 13:00 p.m. | 8:55 p.m.    | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Baltimore, B. & O. P.     | 6:50 p.m.  | 8:55 p.m.    | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Washington, N. & W. B.    | 6:30 p.m.  | 8:55 p.m.    | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Portsmouth, S. A. L. Ry.  | 9:30 p.m.  | 9:40 a.m.    | 12:11 p.m.   |
| Lv Norfolk                   | 12:18 p.m. | 12:11 p.m.   | 2:45 a.m.    |
| Lv Henderson                 | 2:45 a.m.  | 2:15 p.m.    | 5:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Raleigh                   | 4:10 a.m.  | 3:55 p.m.    | 6:30 p.m.    |
| Lv Southern Pines            | 6:07 a.m.  | 6:18 p.m.    | 8:20 p.m.    |
| Lv Hamlet                    | 7:23 a.m.  | 10:50 p.m.   | 9:05 p.m.    |
| Lv Wilmington                | 10:10 a.m. | 10:15 p.m.   | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Charlotte                 | 10:23 p.m. | 10:15 p.m.   | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Chester                   | 10:23 p.m. | 10:15 p.m.   | 11:26 p.m.   |
| Lv Greenwood                 | 12:22 p.m. | 3:46 a.m.    | 1:05 a.m.    |
| Lv Athens                    | 2:40 p.m.  | 6:28 a.m.    | 4:32 a.m.    |
| Lv Atlanta                   | 3:45 p.m.  | 8:00 a.m.    | 5:10 p.m.    |
| Lv Augusta, C. & W. C.       | 5:10 p.m.  | 8:00 a.m.    | 5:10 p.m.    |
| Lv Macon, C. of Ga.          | 7:20 p.m.  | 11:20 a.m.   | 8:00 a.m.    |
| Lv Montgomery, A. & W. P.    | 8:20 p.m.  | 1:20 p.m.    | 9:10 a.m.    |
| Lv Mobile, L. & N.           | 2:55 a.m.  | 4:30 p.m.    | 1:20 p.m.    |
| Lv New Orleans, L. & N.      | 7:30 a.m.  | 4:30 p.m.    | 1:20 p.m.    |
| Lv Nashville, N. C. & St. L. | 6:40 a.m.  | 6:55 p.m.    | 1:20 p.m.    |
| Lv Memphis                   | 8:40 p.m.  | 8:00 a.m.    |              |

| NORTHWARD                      |            | Daily No. 31 | Daily No. 27 |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lv Memphis, N. C. & St. L.     | 12:45 noon | 9:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Nashville                   | 9:30 p.m.  | 9:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv New Orleans, L. & N.        | 8:00 p.m.  | 9:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Mobile, S. & N.             | 12:30 a.m. | 9:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Montgomery, A. & W. P.      | 6:20 a.m.  | 1:30 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Macon, C. of Ga.            | 8:00 a.m.  | 4:20 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Atlanta, C. & W. C.         | 9:40 p.m.  | 5:10 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Atlanta, S. A. L. Ry.       | 12:00 noon | 8:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Athens                      | 2:45 p.m.  | 11:23 p.m.   | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Greenwood                   | 5:01 p.m.  | 2:01 a.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Chester                     | 7:03 a.m.  | 4:10 a.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Charlotte                   | 7:25 a.m.  | 5:20 a.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Wilmington                  | 3:30 p.m.  | 9:00 a.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Hamlet                      | 11:35 p.m. | 10:10 a.m.   | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Southern Pines              | 11:28 p.m. | 9:03 a.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Raleigh                     | 1:29 p.m.  | 11:30 a.m.   | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Norfolk                     | 2:30 a.m.  | 1:50 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Norfolk, S. A. L. Ry.       | 3:34 a.m.  | 2:00 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Weldon                      | 4:40 a.m.  | 3:10 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Portsmouth                  | 7:00 a.m.  | 5:50 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Washington, N. & W. B.      | 6:55 p.m.  | 6:55 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Baltimore, B. & O. P.       | 10:45 a.m. | 11:20 p.m.   | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv New York, O. D. S. Co.      | 11:20 a.m. | 11:20 p.m.   | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv Philadelphia, N. Y. P. & N. | 1:34 p.m.  | 2:56 p.m.    | 9:00 p.m.    |
| Lv New York, P. R. R.          | 4:13 p.m.  | 6:30 a.m.    |              |

| NORTHWARD                      |            | Daily No. 31 | Daily No. 27 |
|--------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Lv Tampa, S. A. L. Ry.         | 8:00 p.m.  | 8:00 a.m.    |              |
| Lv Jacksonville                | 10:10 a.m. | 7:40 p.m.    |              |
| Lv Savannah                    | 2:10 p.m.  | 11:45 p.m.   |              |
| Lv Columbia                    | 7:12 p.m.  | 4:40 a.m.    |              |
| Lv Hamlet                      | 1:05 p.m.  | 8:00 a.m.    |              |
| Lv Southern Pines              | 11:28 p.m. | 8:49 a.m.    |              |
| Lv Raleigh                     | 1:29 p.m.  | 11:30 a.m.   |              |
| Lv Norfolk                     | 2:30 a.m.  | 1:50 p.m.    |              |
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| Lv New York, P. R. R.          | 4:13 p.m.  | 6:30 a.m.    |              |

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